

## MINUTES

### MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

**Call to Order:** Chair Nancy Ballance, on February 20, 2017 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 102 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Rep. Nancy Ballance, Chair (R)  
Rep. Dan Bartel (R)  
Rep. Rob Cook (R)  
Rep. Mike Cuffe (R)  
Rep. Kimberly Dudik (D)  
Rep. Janet Ellis (D)  
Rep. Kenneth L. Holmlund (R)  
Rep. Mike Hopkins (R)  
Rep. Donald W. Jones (R)  
Rep. Jim Keane (D)  
Rep. Ryan Lynch (D)  
Rep. Jimmy Patelis (R)  
Rep. Rae Peppers (D)  
Rep. Marilyn Ryan (D)  
Rep. Brad Tschida (R)  
Rep. Tom Woods (D)

**Members Excused:**

Rep. Randy Brodehl, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Kelly McCarthy, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Tom Burnett (R)  
Rep. Carl Glimm (R)  
Rep. Bradley Hamlett (D)  
Rep. Jon A. Knokey (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Julie Johnson, Legislative Branch  
Joe Triem, Legislative Branch  
Sherri Row, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 44, 2/16/2017  
Executive Action: HB 44; SB 85; HB 137

00:01:18 Chair Ballance relinquished chair to Rep. Holmlund  
00:01:48 Chair Holmlund

### **HEARING ON HB 44**

#### **Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:02:00 Rep. Jeff Essmann (R), HD 54, opened the hearing on HB 44, Generally revise laws related to district court judge numbers.

#### **Proponents' Testimony:**

00:03:43 Vice Chair Brodehl joined the meeting  
00:03:46 Chief Justice Mike McGrath, Montana Supreme Court  
00:04:44 Rep. Knokey joined the meeting  
00:08:02 Rep. Hamlett joined the meeting  
00:08:10 Ed Bartlett, Montana Judges Association, State Bar of Montana, Chamber of Commerce  
00:09:08 Rep. Ballance joined the meeting  
00:10:39 Rep. Glimm joined the meeting

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

#### **Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:11:38 Rep. Patelis  
00:12:30 Beth McLaughlin, Montana Supreme Court  
00:12:38 Rep. Tschida  
00:13:49 Beth McLaughlin, Montana Supreme Court  
00:14:14 Rep. Dudik  
00:16:27 Beth McLaughlin, Montana Supreme Court  
00:16:58 Rep. Jones  
00:17:46 Rep. Essmann  
00:18:06 Rep. Jones  
00:18:43 Beth McLaughlin, Montana Supreme Court  
00:19:41 Rep. Ballance  
00:20:03 Rep. Jones

#### **Closing by Sponsor:**

00:20:30 Rep. Essmann  
  
00:21:45 Recessed  
00:41:20 Reconvened

### **EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 85**

00:41:49 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Brodehl moved that **SB 85 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried 20-2 by voice vote with Rep. Brodehl and Rep. Burnett voting no. Rep. Burnett and Rep. McCarthy voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 44**

00:42:44 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Brodehl moved that **HB 44 DO PASS**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Burnett and Rep. McCarthy voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 137**

00:43:24 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Brodehl moved that **HB 137 BE REMOVED FROM TABLE**. Motion carried 20-0 by voice vote. Rep. Burnett and Rep. McCarthy were excused.

00:45:34 **Motion:** Rep. Brodehl moved that **HB 137 DO PASS**.

00:46:56 **Motion:** Rep. Cuffe moved that **HB 137 BE AMENDED**.  
[EXHIBIT\(aph37a01\)](#)

**Discussion:**

00:47:18 Julie Johnson, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

00:48:05 Chair Ballance

00:48:30 Rep. Dudik

00:48:37 Chair Ballance

00:49:34 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Burnett and Rep. McCarthy voted by proxy.

00:50:10 **Motion:** Rep. Brodehl moved that **HB 137 BE AMENDED**.  
[EXHIBIT\(aph37a02\)](#)

**Discussion:**

00:50:59 Julie Johnson, LSD

00:51:16 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Burnett and Rep. McCarthy voted by proxy.

00:51:52 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Brodehl moved that **HB 137 BE AMENDED**. Motion carried 21-1 by voice vote with Rep. Cook voting no. Rep. Burnett and Rep. McCarthy voted by proxy.

[EXHIBIT\(aph37a03\)](#)

00:52:54 **Motion:** Rep. Brodehl moved that **HB 137 DO PASS AS AMENDED**.

**Discussion:**

00:53:07 Vice Chair Brodehl

00:53:24 Chair Ballance

00:53:59 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Burnett and Rep. McCarthy voted by proxy.

00:54:28 Chair Ballance

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 00:55:07

---

Sherri Row, Secretary

sr

Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([aph37aad.pdf](#))